

5 November 2024


New Zealand Herald


REF: OIA-16539

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 25 September 2024 to the Ministry of Transport regarding the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) Safety Camera Programme. Your request for the following information was transferred to NZTA on 26 September 2024 and considered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

... please provide me with all advice to ministers related to NZTA's so-called Safety Camera Programme, and all budget documents related to the programme, including documents related to delays and or cost pressures or similar.

On 21 October 2024, you clarified your request as follows:

please provide me with all advice to ministers related to NZTA's Safety Camera programme including:

- all budget documents*
- all documents related to delays or similar*
- all documents related to cost pressures or similar.*

The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are enclosed:

- Attachment 1 - Safety Camera System advice.
- Attachment 2 - Additional advice.
- Attachment 3 - Weekly report items.

Information has been withheld from the various documents provided under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect information where making it available would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information

- section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty
- section 9(2)(j) - to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Information that has been previously released is being refused under section 18(d) of the Act as this information is publicly available. You can find this information at the following links:

- BRI-2465 - <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/safety-cameras/bri-2465-safety-camera-trial.pdf>
- MINO-878 – September advice available at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/advice-provided-to-ministers/>
- Weekly report items 30 September and 9 December 2022 in the 2022 advice available at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/advice-provided-to-ministers/>
- 2023 weekly report items with safety camera references available in the 2023 advice at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/advice-provided-to-ministers/>

Please note, the budget information provided to you on page 15 of Attachment 1 will differ from the information provided in our response to your 25 September 2024 request (OIA-16536 refers). This is because the 2022 programme costs that fell in scope of that request were based on a higher number of cameras being installed over the next decade. Since 2022, the programme costs have been revised to a more manageable level of cost and number of new cameras.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold and to refuse this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Tara Macmillan

Head of Regulatory Strategic Programmes